

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel Claims 69-101.

Amend Claim 48 to read as follows:

48. (Amended Once) A method of monitoring or assessing treatment of a disease or condition with a compound that produces or reduces free radicals comprising:

obtaining a first biological sample from a patient suffering from the disease or condition, the biological sample containing albumin and possibly containing a modified albumin having a reduced ability to bind metal ions at its N-terminus;

treating the patient with the compound;

obtaining one or more additional biological samples of the same type from the same patient at one or more times after the treatment; and

determining if there is a change in the quantity of the modified albumin present in the first sample as compared to the subsequent sample(s), the quantity of the modified albumin in each sample being indicative of the amount of free radical damage in that sample, and a change in the quantity of the modified albumin in the first sample as compared to the subsequent sample(s) being indicative of a change in the amount of free radical damage and, therefore, of the effectiveness or ineffectiveness of the treatment, the determination being made by:

(a) contacting each of the biological samples with an excess quantity of a metal ion salt, the metal ion being capable of binding to the N-terminus of unmodified human albumin, to form a mixture of bound metal ions and unbound metal ions;

(b) determining the amount of bound metal ions for each biological sample, the amount of bound metal ions providing a measure of the quantity of the modified albumin in the sample; and

(c) determining if there is a change in the amount of bound metal ions between the first and subsequent sample(s), the change in the amount of bound metal ions providing a measure of the change in the quantity of the modified albumin between the first and subsequent sample(s).